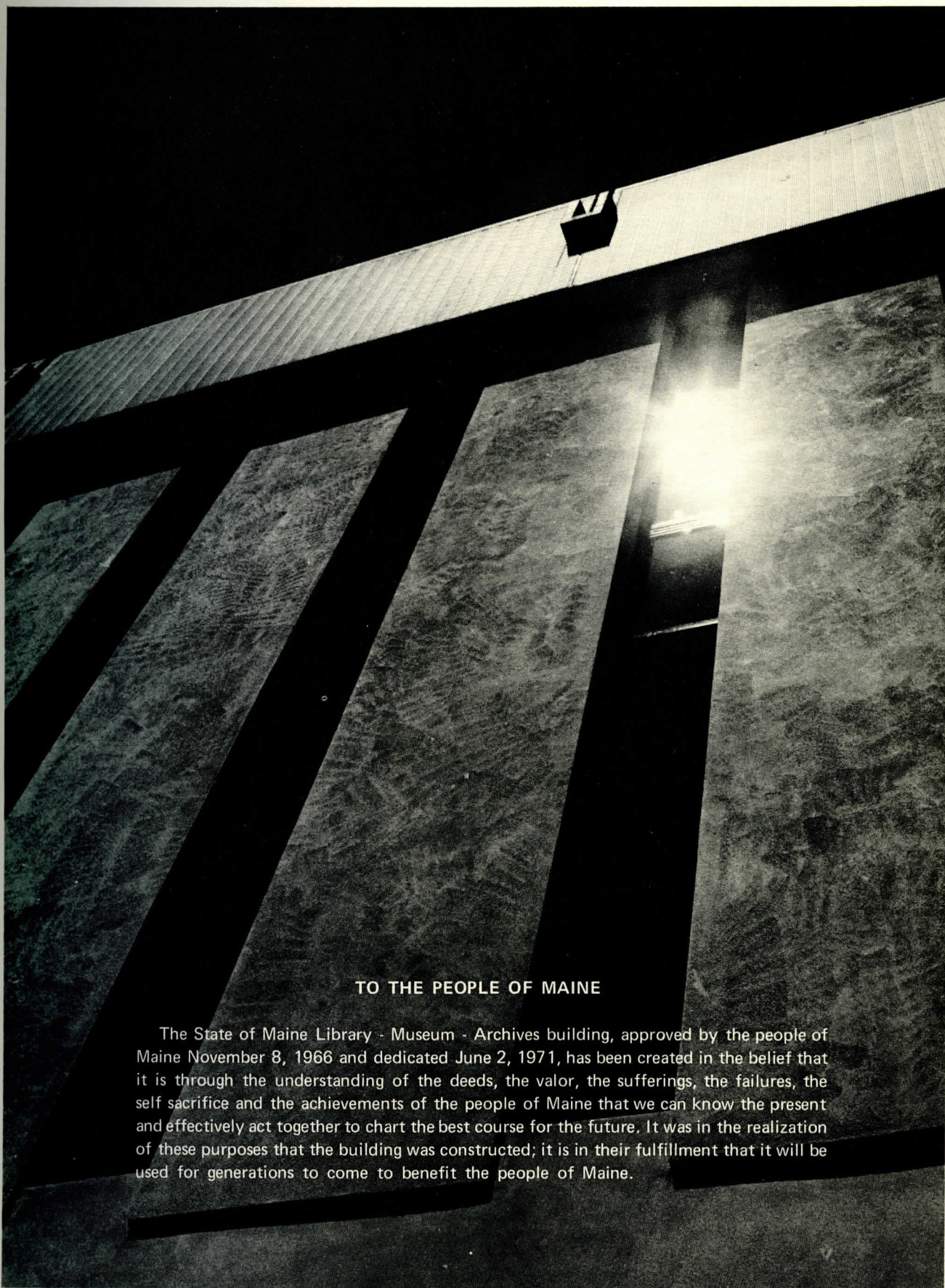




STATE OF MAINE LIBRARY - MUSEUM - ARCHIVES BUILDING

DEDICATION



TO THE PEOPLE OF MAINE

The State of Maine Library - Museum - Archives building, approved by the people of Maine November 8, 1966 and dedicated June 2, 1971, has been created in the belief that it is through the understanding of the deeds, the valor, the sufferings, the failures, the self sacrifice and the achievements of the people of Maine that we can know the present and effectively act together to chart the best course for the future. It was in the realization of these purposes that the building was constructed; it is in their fulfillment that it will be used for generations to come to benefit the people of Maine.

State of Maine

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-One

*Joint Resolution in Observance of the Dedication of
the Library - Museum - Archives Building*

Whereas, the building authorized by the 102nd Legislature and approved by the people of Maine to house the library, museum and archives of the State of Maine has been erected; and

Whereas, the Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis, Governor of the State of Maine, will lead a distinguished body of Maine citizens in the dedication of the new State building on June 2, 1971; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: that the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Maine shall recess their proceedings from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on June 2, 1971 to permit the members of each body to attend the dedication ceremonies of the new building; and be it further

Resolved: that the members of the Maine State Cultural Building Authority are hereby commended for their dedicated services and significant contribution to the government and citizens of Maine in exercising the responsibility for its planning and construction; and be it further

Resolved: that an engrossed copy of this Resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the chairman and to each member of the authority.

House of Representatives

Read and Adopted

May 14, 1971

Sent up for Concurrence

BERTHA W. JOHNSON,
Clerk

In Senate Chamber

Read and Adopted
in Concurrence

May 17, 1971

HARRY N. STARBRANCH,
Secretary



MAINE STATE CULTURAL BUILDING AUTHORITY
1967 - 1971

Niran C. Bates, *Chairman*
Director, Bureau of Public Improvements
Samuel S. Silsby, Jr., *Vice Chairman*
State Archivist
Ruth A. Hazelton, *Secretary*
State Librarian
Robert L. Damm
Director, Maine State Museum
Richard N. Berry
Maine State Museum
Harland A. Carpenter
Maine State Library

Linwood F. Ross
Maine State Archives
L. Kinvin Wroth (January 1967 - June 1969)
Maine State Archives
William H. Bradford
Special Consultant to the Authority
Walker O. Cain & Associates
Architect
Stewart & Williams
General Contractor
Callahan & Lee
Foundation Contractor

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

Ruth A. Hazelton, *State Librarian*
Virginia Hill, *Deputy Librarian*

MAINE STATE MUSEUM

Robert L. Damm, *Director*
Maine State Museum.

MAINE STATE ARCHIVES

Samuel S. Silsby, Jr.
State Archivist

Archives Advisory Board

Edward L. Penley, *Chairman*
Robert G. Albion, *Vice Chairman*
Edith Hary
William Jabine
Arthur M. Johnson
Ernest C. Marriner
Jerome G. Plante
Harry W. Rowe
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.

Maine State Museum Commission

John E. Pancoast, *Chairman*
Paul S. Plumer, *Vice Chairman*
Mrs. Ashmead White, *Secretary*
Gary G. Bagley
John W. Ballou
Richard N. Berry
Wendell S. Hadlock
Hildreth G. Hawes
John N. M. Howells
Bernard Lipman
Mrs. Ralph D. McLeary
Mrs. Arthur J. Mraz
Mrs. Walter M. Reed, Jr.
George B. Rich
Mrs. Roger V. Snow

*Dedication of the
State of Maine Library - Museum - Archives Building*

Program

<i>Noon</i>	<i>Wednesday, June 2, 1971</i>
<i>Remarks</i>	Roger V. Snow, Jr.
<i>Remarks</i>	Dorris Isaacson, President Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums
<i>Remarks</i>	Roger H. McDonough, State Librarian New Jersey
<i>Remarks</i>	John E. Pancoast, Chairman Maine State Museum Commission
<i>Remarks</i>	Dr. James B. Rhoads Archivist of the United States
<i>Presentation of the Key</i>	Michael Salter, President Stewart & Williams Walker O. Cain Architect Niran C. Bates, Chairman Maine State Cultural Building Authority
<i>Remarks</i>	Governor Kenneth M. Curtis
<i>Benediction</i>	The Reverend Canon Roger S. Smith

*Richard N. Berry
Master of Ceremonies
and
Chairman of the Dedication Committee*

The dedication of the Maine State Library, Museum and Archives Building marks the end of a long effort to obtain the facilities that will enable Maine to preserve and present its historic heritage more effectively.

The ceremonies note the end of one effort and the beginning of another. The building is the goal toward which many Maine citizens gave unstintingly of their time and talents. Now that it is a reality, it falls upon all the people of the State, as well as the three agencies, to use the building and its facilities effectively as a means to achieve multiple purposes involving both Maine's past and its future.

In the history of the building 1966 was an important year. It was during this year that both the Legislature and the people of Maine gave approval of the new building. However, the history of the building reaches back even further. The Maine State Library is the oldest of the three agencies housed in the new building having been created by legislative act in 1839. For more than 100 years a shortage of space has plagued the State Library. After having been moved numerous times from one location to another, the Legislature in 1929 recognized the severity of the problem and approved a resolve in favor of a new building or an addition. However, no funds were appropriated and the Depression killed any hope for the construction of new quarters.

Over the years Maine people showed a growing interest in the colorful history of the State. This interest in Maine and the artifacts connected with the State's history led to the establishment of a one room museum on the ground floor of the State House. Despite the extremely limited size of the museum, it was immediately evident that the displays held a strong attraction for out of state visitors as well as for Maine residents - both adults and school children. However, it was equally clear that such

a small facility could not begin to meet the state's need to preserve Maine's cultural heritage; to interpret and bring that heritage to life in exciting and meaningful programs; and to provide information, facilities and services to both professionals and amateurs studying the history of the State.

The fundamental need for the preservation of the public records by the government was recognized by the Legislature in creating the Maine State Archives. Until 1965 Maine ranked at the bottom of all states in archives administration and records management. Government records have a continuing utility to the administration of State government and must be preserved, serviced and maintained for this purpose as a continuing responsibility of the State to perpetuate the memory of Executive, Legislative and Judicial action; protect the public and private rights and privileges established in the records; and provide for the accountability of the government to the people of the State. The "Archives and Records Management Law", enacted by the 102nd Legislature in 1965 provides for the implementation of a comprehensive archives and records management program.

Through the legislation which created the Archives and again in 1966 through legislation which created the Maine State Museum, the State recognized the needs that existed and took initial steps to meet them; however, without a building the Museum and Archives could exist in name only.

At the same time it was realized that the growth of the State Library to a collection of nearly a half million volumes, a staff of 44 persons and services that reach into all parts of Maine meant that it could not continue to perform efficiently much longer in the limited space of the State House.

While the needs of the three institutions were closely tied together, it was on the Museum that

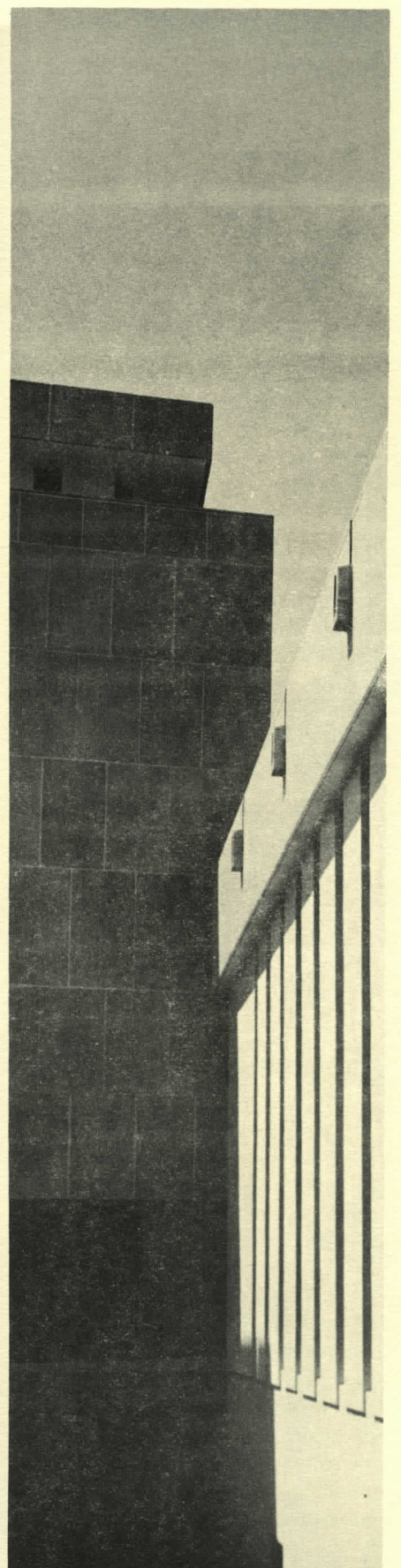
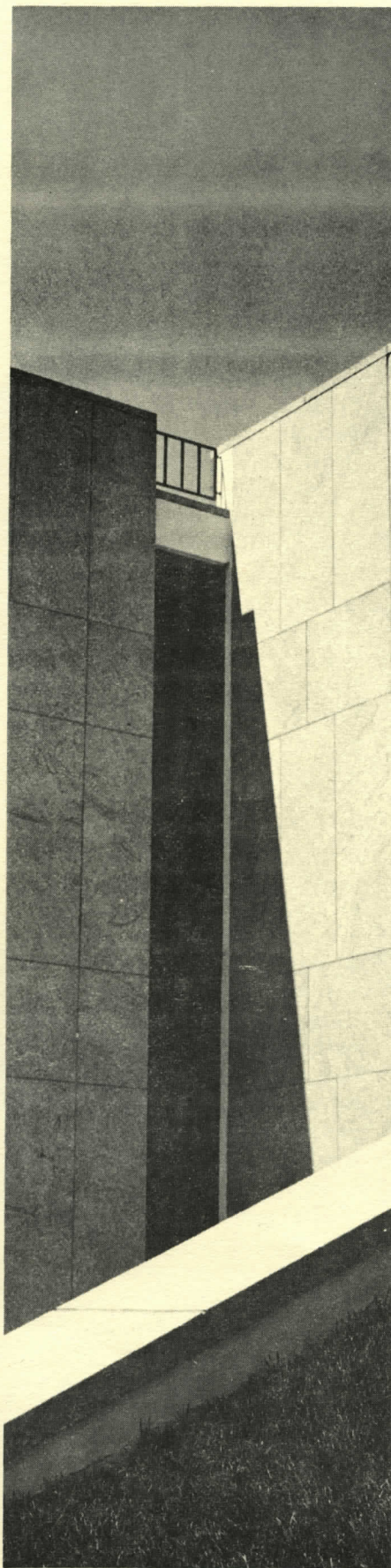
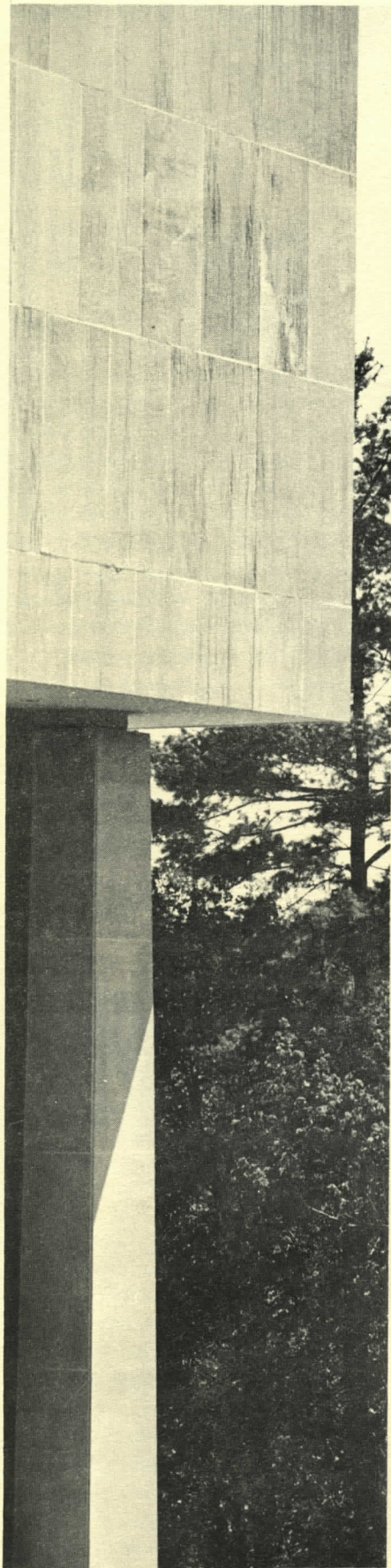
the initial attention fell. In February of 1965 the 102nd Maine Legislature passed a joint order creating a legislative committee to study the location, size, construction and cost of a State Museum. In May the Museum Study Committee recommended that the Library and Archives should be included in the proposed building and that the project should receive further study.

For more than six months the Study Committee continued its work holding a series of public hearings and meeting with several professional consultants. In January 1966 the committee reported to a special session of the 102nd Legislature and recommended a bond issue to fund construction of a building adjacent to the capitol building to house the Library, Museum and Archives. In the same month the Legislature passed an Act creating the Maine State Cultural Building Authority and appropriating \$4,800,000 for construction of the building. The bond issue approved by the Legislature was subject to referendum on November 8, 1966.

During the period before the referendum, the Legislative Committee continued its study of possible sites. In September 1966 more than 200 Maine citizens interested in the future of the building met in Augusta and formed the Maine Citizens Committee for a State Library, Archives and Museum. The "SLAM" committee, as it was popularly known, elected Mrs. Dorris Isaacson of Lewiston as chairman. Before the referendum in November dozens of civic, fraternal, business, professional and service organizations, as well as thousands of individuals publicly endorsed the concept of a new building to house the Library, Museum and Archives.

On November 8, 1966 the voters of Maine put their stamp of approval on the project with a favorable referendum vote.

On December 28, 1966 the Legislative Act became effective and in



January 1967 the Building Authority held its first formal meeting. The Authority was by law made up of the Director of the Bureau of Public Improvements, Chairman, the State Archivist, State Librarian and State Museum Director, and one member each appointed by the Archives Advisory Board, the State Librarian and the State Museum Commission. The Authority was charged by law with acquiring land, constructing a building and providing facilities and equipment for the Library, Museum and Archives.

During 1967 the Authority met more than 30 times directing its efforts toward two main goals. First, that the building be planned to give the State the best possible combination of the aesthetic and the practical within the limitations of the budget. Secondly, that a time schedule be established and adhered to as closely as possible due to the continuing rapid increase in construction costs.

Working toward its first objective, the Authority selected a site, acquired land, hired consultants in each program area, developed program and space requirements, selected an outstanding architectural firm, approved a basic design concept, made numerous necessary changes in detailed floor plans and sketches and gave approval to preliminary plans during 1967 - its first year of operation.

Consultants were Roger H. McDonough, State Librarian in New Jersey for 20 years, former President of the American Library Association and an active consultant on library projects for several states and the U. S. Office of Education; Dr. Frank B. Evans, Deputy Assistant Archivist of the National Archives and Adjunct Professor of Archival Administration, The American University; Michael Spock, Director of the Boston Childrens' Museum and William E. Marshall, Director of the Colorado Historical Society, both recognized authorities in the mu-

seum field.

On June 1, 1967 the firm of Walker O. Cain and Associates was selected as architects for the building. In addition to work with Bowdoin College, the firm has designed a number of outstanding public buildings.

The Authority devoted considerable time and effort to the selection of the present site, its work following some two years of site selection work done by the Legislative Museum Study Committee and the interim committee named to study the site for the combined facility. Of the various sites considered, the Authority felt the present site would provide maximum utility to state government offices, accessibility to the public, relatively low land acquisition costs and would be a natural and practical addition to the entire state government complex. Cost, efficiency and the aesthetic appearance of the capitol now and in the future were carefully considered.

In 1968 there were two highlights in the development of the new building. On July 3, the Governor and Council awarded the foundation contract for the building to Callahan and Lee and on July 16, 1968 ground breaking ceremonies were held on the site. Using a historic wooden spade that had been used in the construction of Fort Western on the Kennebec River, Governor Kenneth M. Curtis broke the first ground for the building.

On May 21, 1969 the Executive Council passed an order awarding the contract on the construction of the building to Stewart and Williams and on May 26, 1969 the firm started work on construction of the building on the completed foundation. The first shipment of structural steel arrived in June and 20 to 30 workers were employed on the site. By August about one third of the structural steel was in place.

By the end of 1969, the structural steel was 85% erected, most of the concrete floor slabs were in place and rough grading around the building was about 80% completed. Work continued on the building throughout the winter and into 1970.

On November 11, 1970 the Authority officially voted to designate the building as the State of Maine Library-Museum-Archives Building. From the fall of 1970 to the spring of 1971 the work on the interior of the building was completed.

The new building provides the Library, Museum and Archives with some of the most modern facilities available. However, the basic concept of the building is not one that will house the staff and equipment of the three agencies but rather it is that of a building designed to be used by the people of Maine. Half of the museum area will be devoted to public exhibits and in addition there will be classrooms, an audio-visual center, laboratories and other facilities available to teachers, students and researchers. The Library will include an improved general reading room, a better catalog and reference section, a separate State of Maine room and other facilities serving both the public and the libraries of the State. The facilities of the new building not only enable the State Archivist to properly protect the permanently valuable records of government, they also enable him to manage, preserve and service them for the continuing use of the government and the public.

The Library, Museum and Archives Building was dedicated on June 2, 1971 with appropriate ceremonies to mark the completion of a project that is more than a building. It is the expression in steel, concrete and granite of the need of Maine people of all ages to become more aware than ever before of Maine's significant historic past and the part that it plays in the determination of the future of the State.

